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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
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RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 0065
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0392
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 0106
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA 0078
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SUBJECT: FINLAND: BURMESE PARTICIPATION IN EU-ASEAN AND
OTHER UPCOMING SUMMITS

REF: STATE 148530

Classified By: POLCHIEF GREG THOME FOR REASONS: 1.4 (B) AND (D)

(C) PolChief delivered subject demarche to Rauli Suikkanen, Deputy Director of the Finnish MFA,s Office of Asia and Oceania, Oct. 29. Suikkanen agreed that now is a good time for the international community to condemn the Junta,s recent behavior and press for genuine dialogue on democracy and reform. He noted that during its EU Presidency, Finland used Burmese attendance at the EU-ASEAN Summit in Helsinki to address the crisis and the dismal human rights situation in Burma. (NOTE: By pre-arrangement with ASEAN, Burma attended that 2006 head-of-state level event at the Deputy Minister level.) The GOF has not yet determined whether it will attend the EU-ASEAN Commemorative Ministerial in Singapore at the Foreign Minister level, but if it does it will support using that event to condemn the Junta,s recent behavior and press for greater democracy and respect for human rights, just as it did during the Summit in Helsinki, Suikkanen added.
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